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keepers and office assistants, and 53.3 years among housewives and housekeepers.

The statistics given in the bulletin indicate that respiratory diseases are prominent where the industrial worker is exposed to colds, drafts and dampness (as among masons and bricklayers) or to violent changes of temperature (as among teamsters, drivers and chauffeurs). Organic diseases of the heart have a high proportional frequency in cases where the work is heavy and the cardiac powers are overtaxed (*e. g.*, among iron molders). Suicide is frequent where depressing influences are present (as among bakers and cigar makers). Typhoid fever is high where questionable water supplies are used (as among enginemen and trainmen, farmers, iron molders and laborers).

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Dr. R. H. Ward, known for his work in microscopy and from 1869 to 1892 professor of botany in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; of Sir William James Herschel, discoverer and developer of the system of identification by fingerprints; of William Robert Sykes, the inventor of the lock-and-block system of railway signalling, and of A. J. F. Dastre, director of the laboratory of animal physiology at the Sorbonne, the University of Paris.

A MEMORIAL meeting for Professor Wm. Bullock Clark was held at the Johns Hopkins University on the Sunday afternoon of November 4, President Frank J. Goodnow presided. The speakers were Dr. Charles D. Walcott, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Mr. R. Brent Keyser, the president of the board of trustees of the university; Professors Harry Fielding Reid and J. S. Ames, of the faculty,

and Judge J. T. C. Williams, of the Baltimore Juvenile Court.—A memorial tablet has been unveiled at Oxford, commemorating the life and work of Roger Bacon. The tablet has been fixed to the old wall of the city, dating from early in the thirteenth century, close to the site of the Grey Friars Church in the precincts of which Roger Bacon was buried. The church has long since disappeared, but the position of the burial ground, though not the exact spot of Bacon's grave, is known. After the celebration at Oxford in 1914 of the seven hundredth anniversary of Bacon's birth, it was thought fitting that in addition to the statue then created in the University museum, a permanent and public memorial should be set up as near as possible to the site of the Franciscan friary in which Bacon passed so many years of his strenuous life.

PLANS are well advanced for the Pittsburgh meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science from December 28 to January 2. The Carnegie Institute, the Carnegie Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh are uniting in preparing to entertain the association. Dr. W. J. Holland, director of the Carnegie Museum, is chairman of the committee on arrangements, and S. B. Linhart, secretary of the University of Pittsburgh, is secretary of the committee. Secretaries of affiliated societies and of other organizations meeting at this time are requested to send to the secretary as soon as possible the approximate number of members of each organization who expect to attend; and the time for which meetings are to be arranged.

DEAN R. BRIMHALL, of Columbia University, has accepted the position of managing editor of THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY.